

From: Kevin Swarts
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 1:15pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

With all due respect, the lawsuit that the Federal Government brought against Microsoft was a tragic waste of time and taxpayer money. Unfortunately the biggest losers in this ordeal have been the economy and technological innovation.

I am very pleased that a settlement was reached between Microsoft and many of its adversaries and that it will not be broken up. My division of Smead Manufacturing creates document management software and our success relies on standardization and Microsoft's integrated software design. If Microsoft were to be broken up it would surely jeopardize the standardization of software we depend on, and thus adversely affect our efficiency. The results could be devastating.

Anyone who analyzes the settlement will recognize that it is very fair and resolves the government's grievances against Microsoft. If anything, it deals with Microsoft too harshly. First and foremost, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. Second, it has agreed to document many of Windows' protocols that help with interoperability. It also sets up a commission to deal with future problems.

Please finalize this settlement as soon as possible. It is the right thing to do for America.

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